

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1495
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2002
DISPOSAL OF NUCLEAR WASTE
YEMPARALA VENKATESWARA RAO

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the present system of disposing of nuclear waste;
- (b) whether the method followed by India is as per international standard and comparable to that followed by developed countries; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINIST
OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE)

(a) Radioactive wastes in different physical forms viz., solid, liquid and gaseous, are generated during operation and maintenance of nuclear reactors. The gaseous and liquid effluents are decontaminated by suitable treatment processes to ensure that the radioactive contents of the treated effluent are well within the permissible specified limits for discharge into the environment and the radioactivity is concentrated in small volumes. The concentrate from the liquid and solid wastes are immobilised in solid materials like cement, bitumen, polymers etc. so that the radioactivity will not leach out and re-enter the bio-sphere. This 'conditioned' waste is packaged in suitable containers and placed in reinforced concrete trenches, tile holes and vaults, located in access controlled areas, which are under constant surveillance.

(b),(c) & (d) The method followed by India for disposal of nuclear waste is as per international standards and as followed by developed countries. The disposal operations are carried out under the surveillance of regulatory authorities.